

## Wasatch Mountain State Park

Wasatch Mountain State Park is 22,000 acres, 700 of which are developed for recreational purposes, located north of Midway on the east slope of the Wasatch Mountains. Situated at an elevation of 6,000 feet, the park has a moderate spring, summer, and fall climate and provides all-seasons recreation.

A unique feature of Wasatch Mountain State Park is its 27 hole golf course that winds through quiet meadows at the foot of the mountains. The course, which features spacious greens kept in top shape by crisp mornings, both open and wooded roughs and a variety of bunkers, traps, and water hazards, is a golfer's challenge and delight.

Made-to-order for the young fisherman (12 and under) is a two acre children's fishing pond abundantly planted with trout for easy "hooking."

Located amidst oaks, cottonwoods, firs, and aspens, the Pine Creek Campground, having 135 camping sites with utility hookups and modern restroom and shower facilities, will suit all camping needs.

To entice any naturalist, camper, or visiting sightseer Wasatch Mountain State Park abounds in flora and fauna, a wide variety of birds, waterfowl, small mammals, and upland game.

At Wasatch Mountain State Park, the array of activities allows you to work out an itinerary to hit any mood.

For the more adventurous, the trail system inside the park can allow you to "get away from it all," in no time at all. Trails weave in and out among the Wasatch Mountains, and go through a variety of landscapes.

The State Park also hosts classical guitar concerts each Saturday in August; dog sled racing in the winter, and a mountainman rendezvous each summer.

Other summer activities include hiking, horseback riding, and picnicing. Winter activities include snowmobiling and cross-country skiing with rentals and tour guides available for both.



# Skiers find more in Big Cottonwood than just chairlifts and groomed runs

By Ray Grass

Deseret News outdoor editor

**BIG COTTONWOOD CANYON** — Besides good snow and groomed runs, skiers are looking for more these days.

Smooth runs and working lifts are expected, like air and daylight.

High-speed lifts, cross country skiing, gourmet dining and connecting ski areas are not necessarily expected, but certainly appreciated.

Which accounts, in part, for some imaginative thinking on the part of Big Cottonwood Canyon ski areas — Brighton and Solitude. And, according to early reports, increased business.

Brighton, for example, became the latest Utah area to add the latest in ski lifts — a high-speed quad. The lift puts skiers on the mountain higher and faster than old-style lifts, which ultimately means more runs made in less time.

With that Brighton has offered some of the state's most interesting ticket packages.

For example, 2 children — ages 10 and under — can ski free with one paying adult. Or, parents can take four youngsters skiing for the price of two adult

tickets (\$21 each).

The area, too, has offered four-for-one ticket days this season and plans to try it again before the season ends, all intended to introduce the convenience of its new high-speed chairlift.

It also hopes to develop a new area soon. It is currently working with Wasatch County for permission to put two lifts on the backside of the area, a drainage that flows down into Midway.

The new lifts would access about 2,200 vertical feet of mostly expert terrain, "which would add a whole new dimension to Brighton," reports Randy Doyle, area manager.

Down the canyon is Solitude.

Currently there are two links between the two ski areas: 1. The "Solbright" ski trail that runs downhill from Brighton to Solitude, and 2. the Solitude Nordic Center with 20 kilometers of groomed cross country trails running between the two.

A ski pass good between the two areas is \$32 a day. Skiers can buy at Brighton and ski to Solitude, or buy at Solitude and take public transportation to Brighton

Please see CANYON on D2



PHOTOGRAPHY/ RAY GRASS

Skier overlooks Snake Creek area Brighton hopes to develop in the next few years.



**AMERICAN FORK** is accessible from Snake Creek inside Wasatch State Park or through Deer Creek campground. Picturesque high mountain scenery, camping and picnicking are all here to delight you.

Scenic rides through the Uinta National Forest: From Wasatch State Park, take **Snake Creek Canyon Road**, or from Deer Creek, take **American Fork Canyon Road**.

**Heber Mountain** and the **Duchesne Ridge**, on the other side of our Valley, are accessible from Daniels Canyon Route 40. A paradise for horseback riding, 4-wheel drive vehicles, and camping. Spectacular views!

Off-road information can be obtained at the Forest Service Office in the Heber City Post Office or at the Chamber of Commerce.





**GUARDSMAN'S PASS:** From Heber Valley through the Wasatch State Park is a graded dirt road. At the top, you can choose either Big Cottonwood Canyon, home of Solitude and Brighton ski areas, or Park City, renowned for skiing, fine restaurants, and shopping.

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Photo by Sonni Schwinn

Wasatch Mountain State Park golf course assistant superintendent Charles Sorge monitors the weather station that is part of a new computerized watering system. 12-1-92

## New system should save park on irrigation water

## New system should save park on irrigation water

By SONNI SCHWINN  
Herald Correspondent

MIDWAY — A million-dollar computerized water management system at Wasatch Mountain State Park is expected to save 10 to 20 percent of the park's irrigation water and possibly more, while helping the golf course to be greener as well.

Charles Sorge, assistant greens superintendent, said it took about a year and a half to install the new Rainbird sprinkling system on the golf course, including some 3,000 sprinkler heads, a weather station, and computerized equipment. The system went on line in August.

Ironically, the state-of-the-art computer depends on technology that has existed for thousands of years. The weather station consists of a 12-foot post with a wind direction sensor on top that is just a little wing that turns with the direction of the wind, a little gadget that spins with the wind to measure its speed, and a small bucket on a teeter-totter contraption to catch and measure precipitation.

Also at the top are sensors and gauges that measure the temperature, relative humidity, and solar radiation. At the foot of the post is a state-of-the-art, insulated, monitoring station.

The computer continually monitors and records the weather station data. It determines how often each sprinkler head should be turned on, and for how long, partly based on the weather conditions.

Another factor considered in

determining the sprinkling cycle is the terrain. For instance, if a sprinkler is on a hill where the water runs off, it may be turned on for a few minutes, then off, while the water soaks in, then on again.

"You can actually have the sprinklers come on 20 times, for a minute each time, or whatever. It's amazing what you can do. It's unlimited," said Sorge. "In the fall or spring, when it's frosty, you can punch in the computer and just water the greens, to get the frost off the greens, so they can open the course a little earlier, and so they can mow a little earlier, too."

The sprinklers can be controlled individually or in sections, by computer or manually. The computer not only keeps a record of water used, to the gallon, but how much water will be needed each day.

By the end of last summer, Sorge said, some adjustments had been made, like adding a little water to some areas that were drying out. Next year the system will be fine-tuned so no water will be wasted, the course's grass will be healthy, and employees that used to have to tend to the watering will be able to do other work.

"Before, we had guys go out at night with sprinklers and plug them in with couplers. Human watering is really bad. You can never control it right. It was always getting too wet, or not enough water," said Sorge.

However, a human being still has to be on hand to tell the computer some things it can't measure for itself.

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